THE ELEVENTH DAY.

12th March 1921.

The Assembly met at 11 A. M. on Saturday, the 12th March 1921.

152. Concessions to Malayala Brahmins.

Mr. Chingan Narayanan Bhattatiri (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) said that the material condition of his community was very unsatisfactory and that they were practically ignored by the Government. Malayala Brahmins were returned as members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly only as representatives of the Jenmies. They were also not represented in such institutions as the Panchayat Courts, Municipal Councils, &c. The Member therefore prayed that at least one member should be nominated from the community as a member of the S. M. P. Assembly, and that arrangements should be made for the members of his community being appointed as Judges of the Panchayat Courts and as members of Municipal Councils at least in places where the community was large in numbers.

The Member learnt with regret that the Education Expenditure Committee had recommended the abolition of the three existing Special schools for Malayala Brahmins on the ground that the number of pupils was small and that a good number of pupils from the community were studying in other schools. The Committee seemed to have overlooked the fact that pupils at all stages could not attend public schools and that at one stage, that is, the period ranging from Upanayanam to Samavartanam, a Malayala Brahmin boy could not attend any school except the Special school. The argument of the Committee that the community was rich enough was also untenable, as most of the Jenmies, though owners of extensive lands, did not get appreciable income therefrom on account of the difficulty in collecting their dues. It was true that Government were giving some grant for the boarding expenses of the pupils of the Special schools at Mannadi and Kumaranallur. But the Education Expenditure Committee had ignored the fact that the expenditure was met from the income of certain endowments belonging to the community which had merged in Government property. There were other endowments also in the possession of Government, and the Member prayed that the income therefrom might also be arranged to be utilised for the boarding expenses of the Special schools. The statement of the Education Expenditure Committee that there was no fee income from the Special schools was not correct. Fee was being collected in the Kumaranallur Special school as in other schools.

The Member also prayed,

(1) that a Special school for Malayala Brahmins be established at Kaladi, the sacred birth-place of the Jagad Guru, Sri Sankaracharya, to serve the pupils of the community in North Travancore, and

(2) that preferential treatment be given to Malayala Brahmins in the matter of Government appointments, especially appointments in the Devaswom department.

Dewan's reply.—No definite reply can be given just now as the Member did not send in advance the points he was going to discuss. All his suggestions will be considered.

153. The present condition of the town of Eraniel and certain suggestions for its improvement.

Mr. P. Krishna Pillai (Member, Eraniel Taluk) said that the town of Eraniel was very densely inhabited having a population of 5,340 and that the major-

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portion of the population lived on low ground to the east of the Taluk office and the Eraniel branch channel. As a consequence, all the habitations below for a mile to the east of the channel were affected by dampness caused by the perennial oozing of water from the channel. In recent years the place had also become subject to elephantiasis and other allied diseases. The well water in the town was brackish and unfit for drinking purposes and the people for a mile around were forced to obtain drinking water from the springs in the Valliyar, a small stream running along the eastern border of the town. Even this water, which was filthy, being only the drainage water from the paddy fields and gardens, was not always obtainable. The appointment of a special medical officer for cholera duty in the taluk from time to time was a clear indication of the insanitary condition of the place. The narrow and damp lanes and bye-lanes of the town with thickly crowded houses on either side formed a nursery of diseases. To remedy this, the Member suggested that side drains might be cut and the lanes well metalled with gravel. Regarding drinking water, the Member suggested that a reservoir might be built at the foot of the Eraniel channel which was in level about 60 feet higher than the densely populated portion of the town and water stored up in it and distributed by means of pipes for drinking purposes for the whole area lower down. The cost of the project would not be prohibitive and the Member had no objection to the expenditure being recouped by the levy of a small water cess.

The Member next said that the taluk of Eraniel which was more densely populated than the adjacent taluks of Agastisvaram, Kalkulam and Vilavankod stood badly in need of a Munsiff's Court. The taluks of Agastisvaram and Kalkulam had each two Munsiffs' Courts. The Eraniel taluk was inhabited by craftsmen and traders and was year after year commercially, industrially and agriculturally rising in importance. The people had to resort to the Munsiff's Court at Thuckalay, and that entailed much trouble and expense to the litigant population. Out of the 14,766 cases filed in the Padmanabhapuram Munsiffs' Courts for the past four years, 8,562 cases or nearly 60 per cent. of the cases were from Eraniel. At Eraniel, there was a convenient building available at a cheap rent for locating the Court. The Member prayed that the Additional Munsiff's Court at Padmanabhapuram might be transferred to Eraniel.

Dewan's reply.—In your memo of subjects you did not state these points. If you had done so, the question of the transfer of the Additional Munsiff's Court from Padmanabhapuram to Eraniel would have been referred to the High Court and their opinion obtained. Your present representation will be forwarded to the High Court for their remarks.

In regard to the insanitary condition of Eraniel town and the need for a good water supply, all that you have urged point to the necessity for a Municipality in that place. You must administer your own affairs and there must be a local body to see to the improvement of the town. I believe the Dewan Peishkar, Padmanabhapuram, has recommended the starting of a Municipal council at Eraniel. The necessary notification will be published in the Gazette and objections invited. But what I request you and the townsmen of Eraniel to do is to face the situation boldly, realise the need for a Municipality, take up the affairs of your town in your own hands and manage them.

154. Certain needs of the Vilavankod taluk with special reference to the necessity for establishing a Government Hospital at Kuzhittura and raising the standard of the L. G. E. School at Martandam.

Mr. V. Ramakrishna Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhittura) said that the necessity for the establishment of a Government hospital at Kuzhittura, the headquarters of the taluk, had been pressed upon the serious attention of Government by the Members from the taluk since the second session of the Assembly, that even before the institution of the Assembly the people had repeatedly memorialised successive Dewans since the time of Dewan Mr. Shungrasubbier on the same subject

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